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16. ON A RECORD OF THE BLENNIID FISH *CRUNATUS DEALMEIDA* (SMITH) FROM INDIAN WATERS

(With a photograph)

Five male and three female specimens of *Crunatus dealmeida* (Smith) were noted in a collection of fish from the east coast of India made by Mr. N. V. Subba Rao of the Zoological Survey of India between November-December 1964. The species was collected at Upputeru, a backwater canal near Nizampatnam (15° 54' N., 80° 43' E.), 3 km. from the coast. This is the first record of *C. dealmeida* from the Indian seas; the species being known so far only from South Africa.

Sexual dimorphism is evident. The female can be distinguished by the greater length of the caudal and the pelvic fins in relation to standard length and the greater width of the body. A dark mark on the last three dorsal rays further distinguishes the males. Detailed descriptions of the male and the female are given below.

Crunatus dealmeida (Smith)

1949. *Omobranchus dealmeida* Smith, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (12), 2, p. 104 (Type locality : from a rock-pool, Ponte Maone, Delagoa Bay).
1959. *Crunatus dealmeida* Smith, *Ichthyol. Bull. Rhodes Univ.* 14, p. 234, pl. 19, A.
1965. *Omobranchus dealmeida* Smith, *The Sea fishes of S. Africa*, 5th ed., p. 507 pl. 76, p. 344.

Male

Material : 5 ♂ ♂; 34.0-56.0 mm. in total length; 14-12-1964.
Upputeru Canal, Nizampatnam. Coll. : N. V. Subba Rao.

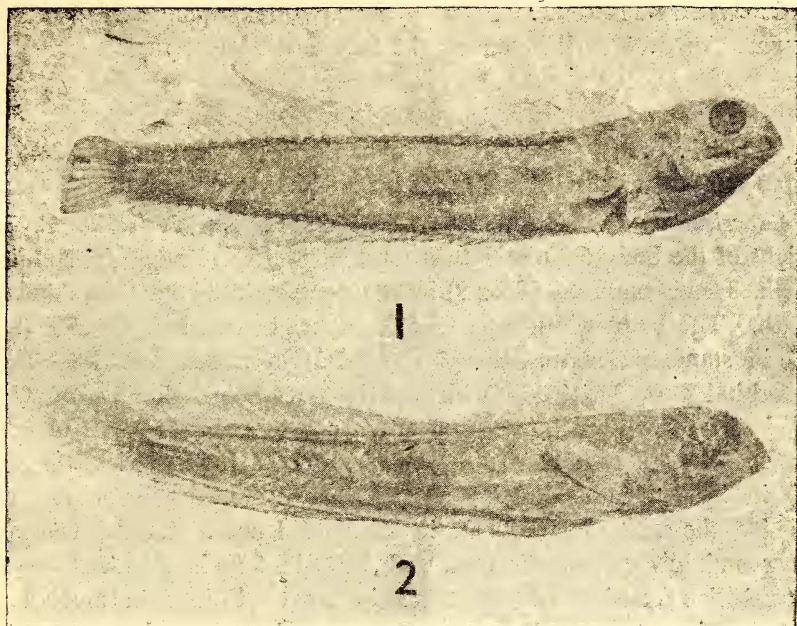


Fig. 1. *Crunatus dealmeida* (Smith) male 53 mm. in total length.

Fig. 2. *Crunatus dealmeida* (Smith) female 51 mm. in total length.

Description : D XII+22; A. II+22-23, P. 13, V. I. 2; C. 16. Height of body 7.2 (6.0-7.8) in total length, 6.1 (5.4-6.7) in standard length. Head length 4.8 (4.5-5.3) in total length, 4.1 (4.0-4.3) in standard length. Eye 1.3 (1.2-1.3) in snout, 1.9 (1.5-2.0) in post-orbital part, 3.5 (3.3-3.8) in head length. Snout sloping, 2.9 (2.5-3.0) in head length. Interorbital space concave, 4.6 (4.2-5.0) in head length. The width of the body 1.9 (1.5-2.2) in height of the body, 11.0 (8.0-13.1) in standard length. Mouth small and inferior. Lips with flaps. 18 teeth in each jaw, lower canines 2 times upper. Gill membranes broadly united with isthmus. Lower edge of gill opening opposite to the upper edge of pectoral base. Branchiostegals eight. Gill rakers 9-10 in the lower arch. Dorsal and anal free from caudal, last dorsal and anal rays joined to the caudal penduncle. Dorsal originates slightly in advance of gill opening. Dorsal spines flexible, lower than soft rays. Anal lower than dorsal. Pectoral rounded, subequal, 1.2 (1.0-1.4) to pelvics, 1.3 (1.2-1.4) in head length.

Pelvics equal to head, 4.4 (4.2-4.6) in standard length; two rays joined at the basal part, the inner ray longer reaching the vent. Caudal truncate, upper and lower rays produced, 4.4 (4.1-4.6) in standard length. Lateral line consists of 3 tubes in front.

Colour in alcohol: Fins hyaline. Body uniform reddish-brown. An oval dark patch on the last three dorsal rays.

Female

Material: 3 ♀♀; 46.0-51.0 mm. in total length; 14-12-1964, Upputeru Canal, Nizampatnam. Coll.: N. V. Subba Rao.

Description: D. XIII+21; A. II+22; P. 13; V. I. 2; C. 16. Height of the body 6.7 (6.4-7.2) in total length, 5.8 (5.5-6.2) in standard length. Head length 4.8 (4.6-4.9) in total length, 4.2 (4.0-4.4) in standard length. The body width 1.6 (1.4-1.7) in height of the body, 9.2 (8.8-9.8) in standard length. Eye 1.3 (1.2-1.3) in snout, 1.9 (1.8-2.0) in postorbital part, 3.4 (3.3-3.5) in head length. Snout sloping, 2.5 (2.5-2.6) in head length. Interorbital space concave, 4.4 (4.0-5.0) in head length. Pectoral rounded nearly equal 1.0 (1.0-1.1) to pelvics, 1.3 (1.3-1.4) in head length. Pelvics shorter than head, the inner ray not reaching the vent, 5.0 (4.9-5.2) in standard length. Caudal truncate, upper and lower rays not produced, 5.0 (4.9-5.1) in standard length. Lateral line consists of 2-3 tubes in front. Colour in alcohol as in male without an oval dark patch on the last three dorsal rays.

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K. V. RAMA RAO

17. MULLET ON ROD AND LINE IN CHILKA LAKE

Rod and line fishing is becoming popular in Chilka Lake in recent years. Anglers, other than professional fishermen, take to this in autumn and winter months. The angling is not sport-motivated, but a means to add to their rations in addition to getting some hard